

**MALHEUR COUNTY COURT MINUTES**  
**August 30, 2023**

The regularly scheduled meeting of the County Court was called to order by Judge Dan Joyce at 9:00 a.m. in the County Court Office of the Malheur County Courthouse with Commissioner Ron Jacobs and Commissioner Jim Mendiola present. Staff present in the meeting room were: Administrative Officer Lorinda DuBois, Veterans Service Officer Connie Tanaka, Accounts Payable Manager Mauri Saito, Personnel Officer Duane Cowperthwait, IS (Information Services) Director Joshua Kreger, and IS Coordinator Ty Hemeon. Members of the media, public and staff had the opportunity to join the meeting electronically or in-person. Notice of the meeting was posted on the County website, Courthouse bulletin board, and emailed to the Argus Observer, Malheur Enterprise, and those persons who have requested notice. The meeting was audio recorded. The agenda is recorded as instrument # 2023-2505

**DLCD GRANT APPLICATION**

Planner/Interim Environmental Health Director Eric Evans met with the Court and explained that the Department of Land Conservation and Development (DLCD) is accepting applications for their Technical Assistance Grant program. These are competitive grants to fund local government planning compliance projects, land use ordinance updates, or comprehensive plan updates. Mr. Evans proposed submitting an application to update the County's land use ordinances (County Code); Mr. Evans requested authorization to contract with Winterbrook Planning for assistance in completing the grant application using some of the Planning Department's budgeted funds in Contracted Services (funds in this line-item were originally earmarked for a future rural housing project). Consensus of the Court was to engage Winterbrook Planning to assist with the DLCD Technical Assistant Grant application.

**COURT MINUTES**

Commissioner Jacobs moved to approve Court Minutes of August 23, 2023 as written. Commissioner Mendiola seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

**FAIR BOARD**

Commissioner Jacobs moved to appoint Maddie Hewitt to the Fair Board as a Voting Member. Commissioner Mendiola seconded and the motion passed unanimously. Ms. Hewitt fills the position previously held by Warren Osborne.

**SUPPLEMENTAL BUDGET**

Commissioner Jacobs moved to approve Supplemental Budget Resolution R23-26: In the Matter of Fiscal Year 2023/2024 Supplemental Budget by Resolution Under Local Budget Law ORS (Oregon Revised Statutes) 294.471. Commissioner Mendiola seconded and the motion passed unanimously. The purpose of the supplemental budget is to allocate additional Criminal Justice Commission Specialty Court Grant funds in the District Attorney budget that were not anticipated when the budget was adopted - the funds will be used to help fund the Malheur County Adult Drug Court; to allocate additional funds from the sale of equipment in the Weed Fund that were not

anticipated when the budget was adopted - the funds will go towards the purchase of a new four-wheeler; and to allocate additional funds from the District Attorney's Fund Specialty Court Grant Program in the Community Corrections budget - the funds will pay for a portion of staff involved in Drug Court. See instrument # 2023-2506

### **MALHEUR WATERSHED COUNCIL**

Commissioner Mendiola moved to appoint Mark Carpenter to the Malheur Watershed Council (as recommended by the Malheur Watershed Council). Commissioner Jacobs seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

### **ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR VACANCY**

The Court has reviewed the applications received for the vacancy. Commissioner Jacobs suggested the interview committee be comprised of the County Court and community partners. Staff is developing interview questions. The Court members are available each Wednesday in September to conduct interviews. The position will be housed at the Goodfellow Building. Mr. Tanaka said the office needs a computer and a phone line. The internet at the building may need to be upgraded.

### **COMPENSATION**

Commissioner Jacobs noted that Mr. Evans had submitted a proposal to amend his Agreement for additional duties of Interim Environmental Health Director; and that Ms. DuBois had also submitted a proposal for additional compensation for additional work with ARPA (American Rescue Plan Act)/LATCF (Local Assistance and Tribal Consistency Fund) funds she is doing; additionally, Commissioner Jacobs explained that he feels that Malheur County's wages for all County employees are somewhat lower than other counties throughout the state and an increase for all employees should be considered. Commissioner Jacobs requested authorization to negotiate with Mr. Evans and Ms. DuBois on behalf of the County Court regarding their proposals. Commissioner Mendiola and Judge Joyce had no objections to Commissioner Jacobs request.

### **COURT ADJOURNMENT**

Judge Joyce adjourned the meeting.